

REMARKS

Applicants and Applicants' attorney express appreciation to the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor for the courtesies extended during the recent interview held on April 24, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance for the above-identified application are now respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-21 remain pending in the application, wherein claims 1, 8 and 19 were amended. No claims were added or cancelled.

Applicants incorporate the remarks from the previous amendment to the extent they are still applicable to the claims as currently presented.

As discussed during the examiner interview, it is Applicants' position that Monks et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,022,700) fails to teach or suggest an assay plate that includes a flexible substrate having a flexible substrate surface. Webb et al. (US 2003/0124029) also fails to disclose or suggest an assay plate that includes a flexible substrate having a flexible substrate surface. The purpose of providing such flexibility is that it permits the substrate to conform to the curvature of an animal body part (e.g., limb or torso) for use with an animal. Monks et al. and Webb et al. neither teach nor suggest an assay plate having a substrate with the level of flexibility recited in claims 1 and 19. Nor do Monks et al. and Webb et al. teach or suggest a method as in claim 8, which recites attaching a flexible substrate onto an animal. In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1, 8 and 19 as now presented, as well as the claims which depend therefrom, are patentable over Monks et al. and Webb et al., either alone or in combination with any other art of record. Claims 16-18 do not stand rejected over the prior art.

In the event the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview or which may be overcome by examiner amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 30th day of April 2007.

Respectfully submitted,



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